DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1849. NO. 19.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

SOWING GRASS SEED.

THE latter part of summer and early in fall is a good season for sowing grass seed, excepting clover, which in such cases should be sowed in March, as soon as the snow is off. It is better to sow by the tenth or twelfth of September, though it would answer to sow later, if we have what is called a late fall, that the grass may get a good start before winter.

In some late, warm falls, good success has attended sowing grass seed as late as the latter part of September, and even early in October; but generally there is a risk in sowing so late; yet the risk should be considered merely in the seed, and not in the crop; for if it fails, it may be ascertained in March, in time for sowing and getting a pretty good crop the same season.

When grass seed is sowed the latter part of September, or at a later period, and early enough to vegetate the season it is sowed, it is very liable to be winterkilled, in an open, changeable winter. Sometimes the earth is covered with snow, and the winter is regular, and the grass will not be killed. We lately noticed some very stout grass, left at our office, which was from seed sowed so late last fall, that it had just started before winter. Yet it was not winterkilled. This may be considered an exception, rather than a general result.

Lands sowed to grass last spring, that have failed from drought, may now be ploughed and re-sowed, with a fair prospect for a full crop next season.

Wet grass lands may be top-dressed; or, if very uneven and full of weeds and wild grasses, plough well, by completely inverting the sod, and laying the furrow-slice smooth. Then manure, harrow thoroughly, to make fine tilth at the surface, sow grass seed, work it in with a bush-harrow, and roll. Any grass lands may be renovated in this way, if it is not desirable to have a tilled crop intervene.

As to the quantity of seed to the acre, there is a wide difference in opinion. Some sow a peck of herdsgrass to the acre, others a bushel; and a few sow less, making still wider extremes. When land is in a high condition, and the season is favorable to promote its vegetation and growth, so as to cause it to branch or tiller, eight or ten quarts of herdsgrass, with redtop and clover, are sufficient. Again, under unfavorable circumstances, as to soil and season, a bushel will hardly be sufficient.

We sow about half a bushel of herdsgrass to the acre, and the same quantity of redtop, if it contains as much chaff as usual. In some cases, redtop is nearly clean seed, and a less quantity is required. We sow two or three, or eight or ten pounds, of clover to the acre, according to the quality of hay desired. On rather dry land, where we would sow the most clover, the other grasses will not succeed so well as they do on wet lands, where less clover is required.

With this amount of seed, on good land we can raise two and a half to three tons of hay to the acre, at a single cutting, and of excellent quality, and fine enough for any stock; but with thin sowing and a rank growth, to make a large crop, the hay will be coarse.

CATTLE SHOWS AND FAIRS.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society, at their hall in School Street, September, 18, 19, 20, and 21.

New York State Agricultural Society, at Syracuse, September 11, 12, and 13. Address by Professor Johnston, of England.

North American Pomological Convention, at Syracuse, commencing September 14.

Vermont Fruit-Grower's Convention, at Montpelier, October 18.

Worcester County Mechanics' Association, at Worcester, commencing September 18.

The Salem Mechanic Association, at Salem, September 25, and through the week.

New Haven (Ct.) Horticultural Society, at New Haven, September 25, 26, and 27.

Worcester (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Worcester, September 20.

Norfolk (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Dedham, September 29.

Berkshire (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Pittsfield, October 3 and 4.

Middlesex (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Concord, October 3. Address by Lilly Eaton, Esq.

Essex (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Salem, September 27. Address by Hon. Asa Newhall.

Bristol (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Taunton, October 11.

Housatonic (Mass.) Agricultural Society, at Great Barrington, September 26 and 27.

Litchfield (Ct.) Agricultural Society, at Litchfield, September 26.

East Somerset (Me.) Agricultural Society, at St. Albans Village, October 3 and 4.

Aroostook (Me.) Agricultural Society, at Holton, October 3 and 4.

MILK-HOUSES.

Opinions have changed as to milk-houses. Some years since, those made by a spring or cold brook, so that cold water would constantly run around the pans, were considered the best; and those who had not the advantages of a stream of cold water, chose a cold part of the cellar, as the next most eligible situation.

But experience shows that spring houses are too damp, if not too cold, and the bottom of a cellar, if neither too cold or damp, is generally without sufficient ventilation; and in a cellar there are generally many substances injurious to milk, and if a room is made in the cellar purposely for milk, it often communicates with other parts that are used for various purposes.

We think that milk-rooms may be made above the ground, or partially above it, so as to have a good ventilation, and, of course, a pure air, and at the same time be sufficiently cool. If no ice is to be used to mitigate the extreme heat, it may be necessary to have the bottom of the house a few feet below the surface of the ground, or to have it constructed on a plan similar to that of an ice-house, in part, excepting arranging it for thorough ventilation, which is not necessary in ice-houses.

If a part of the cellar is used for a milk-room, it should be in the driest part, and where the house is most elevated, that there may be an opportunity for windows well arranged for ventilation. In a close, deep cellar, foul air settles to the bottom, which has an unfavorable effect on milk and butter.

One important objection to cold, damp, and unventilated milk-rooms, is their unhealthy condition for those who attend to the milk, and to churning, and working and packing butter in such rooms in very hot weather.

We copy the following interesting article on this subject from the Wool-Grower, an excellent paper, recently started by Mr. Peters, of the Buffalo Wool Depot.

"Experience had taught me that the great difficulty to be encountered in the manufacture of butter, in warm weather particularly, is the preservation of the milk after it is taken from the cow, until all the cream can rise to the surface, be taken off and transferred to the churn in a perfect state. To obviate this difficulty, after a consultation with my wife, who, by the way, I must be allowed to puff a little, is *au fait* in all matters of this kind. We devised, and caused to be constructed, a milk-house, on the plan and of the dimensions following. Intending to make butter for my own family use only, the arrangements were to be, of course, upon a corresponding scale.

"Now then, to a description of the building: —

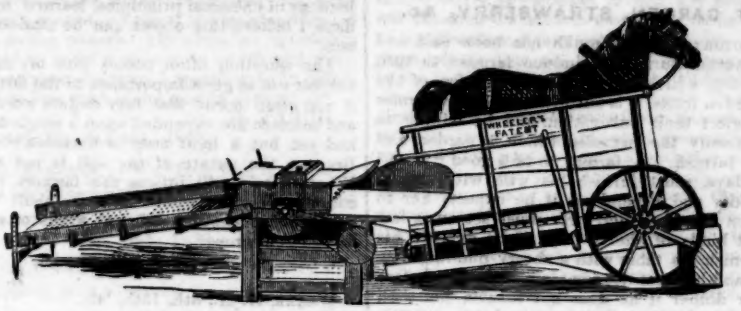
"Frame, of joist and scantling, seven by ten feet; six and a half feet from floor to plate, covered with inch pine stuff, planed and matched, painted on the outside; roof of the same. At each end, and near to one side, a window, exactly opposite each other, twenty inches wide, extending from the floor to the bottom of the plate, covered with wire cloth sufficiently fine to exclude flies, and painted to prevent rust. In the front end a door, and in the rear end a window exactly opposite, about twenty by thirty inches, covered same as the other windows, and placed sufficiently high from the floor to be on a level with a stationary table, (one and a half inch plank,) for the convenience of straining, skimming, working out butter, &c. Six shelves on one side of the room, ranged one above the other. These shelves are each composed of two strips of pine stuff, one and a half inches in diameter, and of the length of the room, joined together at the ends and middle by cross pieces framed in, leaving the longitudinal strips about four inches apart. These shelves are supported at the ends by strips nailed to the window-frames inside, at suitable and equal distances, and at two places between these points, by corresponding strips, fastened at one end to a stud, and at the other to a stanchion placed about twenty inches in front of the stud, and secured at the top and bottom. This distance is necessary, that the shelves may slide back and forth, as convenience in handling pans of milk requires. In this way, but a small part of the bottom of the pan is covered by the shelf, leaving a free circulation of air, which comes in at the windows at each extremity. The building is placed under a cluster of fruit trees, which effectually shield it from the rays of the sun during the heat of the day. A second roof of rough boards, elevated, say two feet above the top of the milk-house, and of sufficient dimensions to cast a shade all around it, would doubtless answer every purpose.

"I do not pretend to say that this is the very best kind of milk-house that can be constructed, but it is the best that we could devise, and with its results we are perfectly satisfied. It answers admirably all the purposes for which it was intended. The milk keeps much longer before changing, giving an opportunity for all the cream to rise; and during the warmest weather in July and August, we are enabled to make the choicest kind of butter, and, for aught I can discover, as much in proportion to the quantity of milk, as at any other time of the season. We have the benefit of an ice-house in close proximity, the contents of which I consider an indispensable auxiliary in the manufacture of butter in warm weather.

"Before the erection of this building, we had tried in vain to make butter in warm weather. The cellar was too damp, or too cold, or too something, and the pantry too hot."

FENCE POSTS.

A practical farmer informs the Hartford Times, that in taking up a fence that had been set fourteen years, he noticed that some of the posts remained nearly sound, while others were rotted off at the bottom. On looking for the cause, he found that those posts that were set limb part down, or inverted from the way they grew, were sound. Those that were set as they grew, were rotted off. This fact is worthy the attention of the farmers.



WHEELER'S PATENT IMPROVED HORSE-POWER THRESHER AND SEPARATOR.

Considering the extensive use of this machine, and the approval of numerous intelligent farmers who have used it, and judging from its operation, we regard it as the most popular and valuable threshing machine now in use. Its simplicity of construction commends it to the observer, on inspection; and in operation it shows more distinctly its fitness for its purpose, by the despatch of work and the neatness with which it is executed.

Some advantages obtained by the farmer using and owning these machines, are the following: —

1. It is very portable, simple, durable, and efficient, and equally adapted for threshing all kinds of grain, clover, and timothy seed.

2. Owing to its great simplicity of construction, the friction is reduced, less power is required, as the weight of the horses is sufficient, with an elevation of twenty inches in ten feet, not causing injury to horses, as in ordinary tread-powers. No driver is needed, and fewer men are required to attend their operation.

3. The expense of threshing is much reduced, and all can be managed by the hands usually about a farm, and in stormy weather can be operated inside of barns, when laborers and teams can do little else to advantage.

4. The farmer, having one of these machines, can at all times take advantage of the markets, and obtain the highest prices without extra expense, or being dependent upon others for machines or assistance — no small item in these days of fluctuating prices.

Three men, with a single power, can thresh seventy-five to one hundred bushels of wheat or rye, or four men, with a double power, one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred and twenty-five bushels of wheat or rye, or double that quantity of oats or buckwheat, per day; and with fanning mill attached to the power, and one man to attend it, the grain can be cleaned for market at the same time.

The price of a single power, with threshes, separator fixtures, bands for drivers, &c., is $125.

These machines are manufactured by Mr. H. L. Emery, Albany, N. Y., and sold by Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason, & Co., Quincy Hall, Boston.

WINTER WHEAT.

The first of September, or former part of this month, is a favorable season for sowing this grain; and we hope that farmers in New England will make experiments in raising it, for we have no doubt that, with hardy varieties, it will be a profitable crop. Should it fail occasionally, it may be no more uncertain than other crops. The crop is sometimes cut off in those states that furnish New England with large quantities of flour. The Hessian fly, the wheat worm, and the rust prevail, sometimes, in all sections, and wheat is liable to be winterkilled in almost all parts of the country. Then why should we be discouraged under the many disadvantages under which other farmers sustain themselves, and supply us with flour, and feed, sometimes, many millions in Europe?

Good crops of the White Flint winter wheat have been raised in Andover, Haverhill, Attleboro', and in other towns. Mr. S. M. Stanley, of Attleboro', a very intelligent and economical farmer, has succeeded well with this grain. Mr. Henry Poor, of Andover, has raised large crops of it. Though a merchant in this city, he shows commendable zeal and intelligence on this subject, that ought to wake up the farmers, and induce them to try the experiment.

Hon. Rufus M'Intire, of Parsonsfield, Me., has succeeded well with the Blue Stem winter wheat. A good crop of wheat is very profitable, as it requires but very little labor. With a good soil and favorable climate for wheat, why should New England depend on other parts of the country for the staff of life?

We have in our office a fine specimen of the White Flint wheat, raised by Mr. Poor, and in an adjoining room may be seen a specimen in the straw, which is an evidence of its large growth.

This wheat is cultivated very extensively in the state of New York, and in some other sections of the country, and it is regarded as one of the very best varieties, both in quality and in its habits of hardiness, production, &c. We hope that farmers will pay more attention to this subject, and endeavor to raise wheat enough in this section for at least our own supply.

For the New England Farmer.

FRUIT GARDEN, STRAWBERRY, &c.

Mr. Editor: After so much has been said and done by horticulturists, to induce farmers to turn their attention a little more to the cultivation of the various garden fruits, it is surprising that any farmer should neglect their cultivation, and be willing to deny his family the luxuries which a garden and fruit-yard furnish. A farmer to be a good "liver" in these days, must furnish his wife with various garden fruits and vegetables, if he expects her to prepare him a good dinner. He must set out a few of the best kinds of cherry-trees, if he expects his wife to furnish his table with a cherry-pudding now and then, and he must not complain if she sets before him a poor dinner if he does not furnish her with the means for a better. Quince, gooseberry, currant, peach, and plum, make excellent preserves; and no doubt but every farmer's wife would be delighted to set them on the table, if her husband would furnish her with the "wherewith."

The strawberry is one of the many kinds of fruits that seem most indispensable. It is a most delicious dessert fruit, and is said to contain many medical virtues. In putrid fevers and pulmonary complaints it is said to be a valuable medicine.

Strawberry jam is excellent, and no farmer's wife should consider her tea-table complete unless she has upon it, among other good things, this delicious preserve.

But while we insist that the good housewife should furnish her table with this delicious fruit, we would not compel her daughters to ramble about the fields, as in days of "yore," in their sun-bonnets, with basket in hand, in pursuit of the strawberry, but we would have every farmer devote a small portion of his garden and time to their cultivation. By a little labor a full supply may be had through the season. The strawberry is easily cultivated, and many varieties have been produced, some of great excellence. An open situation, and a rich, loamy soil, is required for most varieties. The row culture is most convenient, and frequent renewal insures vigorous plants and large fruit. I have not time at present to say all that is necessary to be said about the cultivation, variety, &c., of this excellent fruit; but would advise every farmer to purchase the American Fruit Book, and commence on a fruit garden without delay, and I will be bound to say that in five years' time he would not part with his garden for five times the amount of capital expended upon it.

ROCKINGHAM.

Editorial Remarks. — Notwithstanding the great attention paid to fruits, which has been stated to amount almost to a *mania*, yet not one farmer in five has a good assortment of fruits, or but very little besides apples, and frequently they are not of a choice collection. We can assure them that, if they will go into the general culture of various kinds of fruit, which will not be expensive, that their helpmates will furnish their tables with numerous excellent dishes, that will make a great improvement in their diet, both as to health and palatableness, and save no small expense for meats, butter, &c.

For the New England Farmer.

ANALYSIS OF SOILS, &c.

Friend Cole: Since I have had the pleasure of reading the Farmer, I have noticed frequent allusions in its columns to the chemical analysis of soils, in order to ascertain what is needed to produce any kind of vegetable, grass, or grain. From faint recollections of chemical principles, learned in schoolboy days, I believe this object can be attained by every one.

The question often comes into my mind, Is this subject not of great importance to the farmer? Does it not often occur that fifty dollars worth of muck and manure are expended upon a single acre of land, and yet but a light crop is obtained? And why? Because the nature of the soil is not understood. What chemist will inform the farmers, through the columns of the Farmer, how we shall be able to decide what manures different kinds of soil demand for different crops?

Thine with respect,

Z. BREED.

Weare, N. H., 8th, 13th, '49.

Editorial Remarks. — We hope that some of our correspondents will throw light upon the subject of friend Breed's inquiry. It often happens that the farmer can obtain some kinds of manure much easier than others, and it is important for him to know whether the cheap kind is well adapted to the purpose of improving his soil. Perhaps lime can be very conveniently obtained; how important, then, to know where the land is deficient of this ingredient, or whether there is an ample supply, and all labor in applying this material would be lost.

Again, a farmer has various kinds of manure, as animal, vegetable, and mineral; and subdivisions of these general kinds, as marl, clay, lime, plaster, bone, horn, ashes, soot, urine, salt, ley, soap-suds, sink-water, &c. &c. He also has various kinds of soil, and wishes to raise a variety of crops. How great is the skill required, in order to adapt the manure to the soil, and the crop to the soil and manure. Verily, great skill both in science and practice is necessary to enable the cultivator to go through all the various operations of his profession in the most judicious manner, in order to get the greatest amount of produce from the labor and manure expended.

The numerous facts, so necessary for successful farming can be learned only from practice, observation, reading, and reflection; and the obtaining of such information is a gradual work — a work of time. If it was all poured into the mind at once, it could not retain it.

For the New England Farmer.

MANAGEMENT OF FRUIT-TREES IN THE NURSERY.

Friend Cole: Would not more care in the management of fruit-trees in the nursery than is generally taken, result in the benefit of the purchaser, on account of their being more healthy, and of better constitution?

Careful observation has induced me to believe that it would well pay for the trouble of applying cement to the stock when cut off, after budding, which would preserve the wood in a sound condition until cut close to the bud the succeeding year, when the same protection should be applied.

Shellac, put on with a brush, is a trifling expense. I have often observed, in cutting to the bud, when not protected, that the wood was in a state of decay, and in some instances had extended some inches below the bud, which occurrence I never observed

where the stock was protected. The remark is often heard that fruit-trees which have been changed by budding or grafting are not so healthy and long-lived as those which are not. I am of the opinion there is some truth in the remark; yet when the operations are performed so as for a reunion to be effected without any appearance of decay, I apprehend the difference would be less than is the case in general.

D. TABOR.

VASSALBORO', ME., 6th mo., 1849.

EDITORIAL REMARKS. — We think that it would be profitable to apply something to the protection of the stock, when cut after budding, particularly to cherry stocks and others very liable to decay. In apples and pears, decay is not so common. Shellac, dissolved in alcohol, is excellent for this purpose, and it may be applied rapidly. Gutta percha, dissolved in chloroform, to the consistence of thick molasses, is a new article for this purpose, introduced to notice by Dr. E. Sanborn, of Andover, which promises to be very useful.

As budded stocks are cut off in spring, they are very liable to decay, as that is the most unfavorable of all seasons for pruning trees, or cutting them in any way. Yet the stocks must be cut in spring, as it cannot be ascertained, till that season, what buds will be good.

In cutting the stock down to the bud, we prefer doing it in August, generally; sometimes late in July or early in September; which is the most favorable season for pruning or cutting trees, as the wood will generally season and remain sound. But if cutting the stock down to the wood be deferred till the next spring, it would be best to apply some composition to exclude the rain and hot sun.

It is a well-established fact that trees budded or grafted are not so hardy, or long-lived, and generally not so large, as natural trees. One cause of these imperfections is that suggested by friend Tabor; another cause is the dissimilarity between the stock and scion. One may be early, the other late; one a rapid and the other a slow grower; and there may be various other differences. In some cases the texture of the wood varies materially. That the stock affects not only the scion, but the fruit of the scion, is abundantly proved by practice. Some say this is contrary to science; but as science is a system of truths established by experience, science and practice are the same.

PURCHASE OF HORSES.

Nothing requires more caution than the purchase of horses; and we give the following hints, which are extracted from the excellent volume "On Horses," published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge: —

"In the purchase of a horse, the buyer usually receives, imbodied in the receipt, what is termed a warranty. It should be expressed thus: 'Received of A. B. forty pounds for a gray mare, warranted only five years old, free from vice and quiet to ride or drive.' It is important to observe that the age, freedom from vice, and quietness to ride or drive, should be mentioned, because warranty as to soundness alone does not include these. Many disputes have arisen as to what ought to be termed sound or unsound. A horse is sound in whom there is no disease, nor any alteration of structure which impairs his natural usefulness; and he is unsound if he labors under any disease, or had any accident that has impaired his natural usefulness by an alteration of the structure of any part of his body. The term unsoundness does not apply to any original defect in the temper of the horse, or any deficiency in the strength and powers of the animal. The principal circumstances which constitute unsoundness, besides the great number of actual diseases, are broken knees, which may indicate a stumbler, though not always; for any horse may meet with an accident, and the knee may now be quite well, though it requires great judgment to distinguish in this case. Contraction of the foot is sometimes, but not always, unsoundness; for it is occasionally natural, and not a fault. The following defects are considered to indicate unsoundness: Lameness, through any cause; pumicid foot; sand-crack; spavin; splent; thickening of the back sinews of the leg; thrush; ossification of the cartilages of the foot; defects or diseases of the eyes; coughs, roarings, broken wind, or any defects of the lungs; quidding, or imperfect mastication; cribbiting; biting; kicking; restiveness.

"In order to complete the purchase, there must be a transfer of the animal, or a memorandum of agreement, or the payment of earnest-money; the least sum will suffice for earnest. No verbal promise to buy or sell is binding without one of these; and the moment either of these is effected, the legal transfer of property or delivery is made; and whatever may happen to the horse, the seller retains or is entitled to the money. If the purchaser exercises any act of ownership by using the animal without leave of the vender, or by having any operation performed or done to him, or medicine given, he makes him his own. The warranty of a servant is considered to be binding on the master.

"A man should have a more perfect knowledge of horses than falls to the lot of most persons, and a perfect knowledge of the vender, too, who ventures to buy a horse without a warranty. Where there is no warranty, and a defect is discovered after purchase, an action may be brought on the ground of fraud; but this is difficult to be maintained, for it is necessary to prove that the dealer knew the defect, and that the purchaser was deceived by his false representation. If the defect was evident, the purchaser has no remedy — he should have taken more care; but if a warranty was given, it extends to all unsoundness, palpable or concealed. Although a person should ignorantly or carelessly buy a blind horse, warranted sound, he may return it; the warranty is his guard, and prevents him from so closely examining the horse as he otherwise would have done: but if he buys a blind horse, thinking him to be sound, and without a warranty, he has no remedy. The law supposes every one to exercise common circumspection and common sense. If the horse should be afterward discovered to be unsound at the time of the sale when the warranty was given, the buyer may return it and recover the price; but this proof is requisite; coughing on the following morning will not be sufficient, except the horse was heard to cough previous to the purchase, for the horse might have caught cold by change of stable. Although not compelled to give notice to the seller of the discovered unsoundness, it will be better for it to be done. The animal should then be tendered at the house or stable of the vender. Should the latter refuse to receive him, he may be sent to a livery-stable; for, in case of action, the expense will be recovered with the price; and it will be prudent for the buyer to refrain from any medical treatment. If a person buys a horse, warranted sound, and discovering no defect in him, and relying on the warranty, re-sells him, and the unsoundness is discovered by the second purchaser and the horse returned

to the first purchaser, or an action commenced against him, he has his claim on the first seller, and may demand of him not only the price of the horse, or the difference in value, but every expense that may have been incurred. When an action is brought, the lawsuit is usually very intricate; a fair trial of the horse is allowed, and a certain time specified: but it is not always easy to ascertain whether the fault lies with the horse or his rider, and sometimes the dealer, as well as the buyer, is hardly used. If the horse is detained after the specified time of trial, he is supposed to be sold.

"In London, and in most great towns, there are repositories for the periodical sale of horses by auction. They are of great convenience to the seller, who can at once get rid of a horse with which he wishes to part, without waiting month after month before he obtains a purchaser, and who is relieved from the fear of having the horse returned on account of breach of the warranty; because in these places only two days are allowed for the trial, and, if the horse is not returned within that period, he cannot be returned afterward. They are also convenient to the purchaser, who can thus find a horse that will suit him, and by which, from this restriction as to the returning the animal, he may, perhaps, obtain twenty or thirty per cent. below the dealer's prices. But although an auction may seem to offer a fair open competition, there is no place at which it is more necessary for a person not much accustomed to horses to take with him an experienced friend, heedless of the observations or manœuvres of the bystanders, the exaggerated commendations of some horses, and the thousand faults found with others. There are always numerous groups of low dealers, copers and chanters, whose business it is to delude and deceive."

TOLLS ON MANURES.

Much would be added to the wealth of our country if turnpike companies would permit manures to pass over their roads without the payment of toll; and when the transportation of increased production is taken into account, the companies themselves would be the gainers by the reform. Every inducement should be offered to farmers calculated to make a market for the refuse of factories, &c., which are now lost, but might be rendered productive of real wealth to the country, if brought into use. Untold amounts of waste at the salt works of our state, would be used as manures, if the *canal toll* on this article, when required as manure, could be lessened so as to deliver the dirty or unmerchantable salt along the line of the Hudson River. The English farmers pay neither tolls nor duty on salt for agricultural purposes, and the wealth of the nation has in consequence been permanently increased to a much larger amount than all the duties ever collected on salt, under the old law. One hundred thousand dollars worth of dirty salt could be sold annually at the city of New York for twelve and a half cents per bushel, which is now wasted for want of a practicable market, and the increased annual product in vegetable results, would be many times that amount. — *Working Farmer.*

DO WELL WHAT YOU ATTEMPT.

Thoroughness with the agriculturist as well as with the student, is the only true rule. Although perfection is to be expected but rarely, yet it should be our constant endeavor to approximate the grand point of ultimate and radical completeness, and by every successive step in our progress to render that point less difficult and less remote. Carelessness, when it attains the inveteracy of a confirmed habit, like any other evil, grasps us with a controlling force, — its power and intensity of deteriorating and rendering a bad and condemnable practice worse, increasing in proportion as it is indulged. In farming, every step taken, every act accomplished in the routine, is to be contemplated as a beginning. We must plough before we plant; and we must weed before we harvest; and the weeding of one crop, and its removal from the field, is a labor preparatory to the production and maturation of unnumbered crops which, in succession, are to spring from the same soil, and remunerate, in distant futurity, it may be, the laborer for his annual toil.

In the cultivation of arable lands devoted to weeded crops, how essential is this principle of thoroughness, and strikingly is its necessity displayed! Weeds, especially those of indigenous kinds, are gross feeders, taking from the nutritive properties of the soil a far greater per cent. in proportion to their bulk, than the most exhausting cultivated crops; yet weeds abound; they flaunt and luxuriate and multiply, annually, in almost every field. It was not many years since, that the "Canada Thistle" was introduced into the gardens of New England as an ornamental production! It was cherished and stimulated and admired till, waxing mighty, it sent forth its pestiferous germs from the garden and the parterre to the fields, the pastures and the road-sides, and, finally, like plagues of Egypt, overran and devoured, literally in one sense, — and a most emphatic one, — "the fatness of the land."

A few seeds of the dock are dropped, fortuitously, in some untilled corner, or out of the way place, and produce plants: yet the owner of the soil sees no imperative necessity for immediately destroying them; they stand not in his way at present. But the time will come, should he live, when their power will be felt. The progeny of evil multiplies rapidly; and, in due time, the soil all around will be infested and overrun, till what might have been effected by a single stroke of the hoe, demands, for its completion, the labor of many years, of many anxious hours and painful toils.

In draining and enclosing lands, it is too often that the operator consults present convenience rather than future profit; all the details are imperfectly designed and arranged; nothing is thorough or substantial. Instead of going to work in the right way, and expending his money to the best advantage, by investing every dollar in a permanent "improvement," he expends often a large part of his immediately available resources in the construction of mere "gossamer work" — drains that answer no purpose of practical utility, and fences that a twelvemonth will prostrate, or the feeblest zephyr destroy. Such conduct becomes not the liberal-minded and enlightened farmer; it is a part of the "penny wise and pound foolish policy," which, by every judicious person who rightly appreciates his true interests, will be rejected and despised. Young beginners, and those who are ambitious of making a great display with circumscribed means, are too often cajoled into its adoption; but a few years' experience will be generally sufficient to correct the evil; its burdens and entailments of toil and expense prove, commonly, an "*open sesame*" to the proper course, and their practice is corrected and reformed. In manuring lands, also, we should look more to distant results than to present profits. A piece of soil, thoroughly enriched, is a lasting treasure. Like a deposit in a solvent bank, it pays annual dividends, and by a judicious course of management will improve rather than deteriorate for years. In this department of farming, more than in any other, probably, the beneficial effects of thoroughness are convincingly displayed. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

TO DESTROY THE APHIS ON ROSE-TREES OUT OF DOORS.

In the Ladies' Companion to the Flower-Garden, under the article of Aphis, Mrs. Louden advises to make a decoction of quassia, in the proportion of an ounce of chip to a pint of water, and dip the infected branches of roses into it. This cannot be done on a large scale; but I have found the use of the decoction so valuable, that it ought to be more generally known. My mode of using it is as follows:

Having made in the outset a small quantity in the above proportions, and tested it as a guide for my future use, I now make from two to three gallons at a time in a large iron boiler. When cold, on a fine day, throw it on your rose-bushes by means of a garden syringe, taking care to wet the under as well as the upper surface of the leaves. In two days' time, you will see thousands of the insects adhering to the leaves, but quite dead. Then syringe the bushes with plain water, using considerable force, to wash off the dead aphides. You will no doubt observe many still living, as it is almost impossible to wet them at one operation. Repeat the syringing with the decoction, and afterwards with the water.

Rose-Garden, by Wm. Paul.

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — In our endeavors to destroy insects, or prevent their depredations, it is important to learn what substances are most destructive or offensive to them. In some cases, corrosive substances are used with success, as potash water for lice in the bark of apple-trees. Again, a substance of this nature would sooner kill the tree than the insects that prey upon it.

We prepared a very strong solution of potash, probably too strong for washing the trunks of trees. We put rose bugs in it, carried them eight or ten rods, and then took them out. They were kept in a glass, and appeared well the next day. We then diluted the potash water, by adding as much more water, and applied it to the foliage of various trees and vegetables, and it killed every leaf it touched. This showed that some offensive substance, such as whale oil soap, tobacco, quassia, aloes, &c., must be used, rather than corrosives. Insects breathe through lateral pores, and oily substances close these pores and kill them.

We present for consideration the nature of the substance best adapted to the destruction of each species of insect that preys on our herbage; whether it should be corrosive, or offensive, or oily. Oily substances may be used in connection with an alkali, forming a saponaceous compound. Some offensive substances will only drive insects from one plant to another; others, as tobacco liquor, may destroy them by strangulation.

MUSIC OF INSECTS.

A sound like the humming of bees is often heard in lonely, rural retreats, among mossy dells and leafy solitudes; the poet heard this music of the groves as he penned the following couplet: —

> "Not undelightful is the ceaseless hum,
> To him who, musing, walks at noon."

Sounds like the humming of bees are frequently heard, though not a single insect is to be seen. The existence of these diminutive creatures — who only appear in the evening — is said to terminate before the dawn of day: though short, it is a life of incessant pleasure. By naturalists they are now classed as coral flies, who congregate in millions, as Gardner supposes, for the pleasures of music and the dance.

It is related of Beethoven that those imitative sounds in his celebrated Pastoral Symphony were caught from nature; that he employed the violin, in that extraordinary composition, to represent the soft, fluttering stir of the insects, — the hum in a noontide warmth of a summer's day. He used to sit upon a stile in the environs of Vienna, a lovely, sequestered spot, and listen to the ceaseless sound of unnumbered winged insects dancing in the air.

Plutarch tells us that when Terpander was playing upon the lyre, at the Olympic games, and had enraptured his audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, a string of his lyre broke, and a grasshopper immediately perched on the bridge, and by its voice supplied the loss of the string, and saved the fame of the musician.

The Athenians kept those delicate creatures in cages for the sake of their song, and called them the nightingales of the nymphs. As in the case of birds, the males only sing.

PLEASURES DERIVED FROM THE CULTIVATION OF FIELDS AND GARDENS.

The cultivation of fields and gardens is one of the most delightful of all occupations, and perhaps the only one the toil of which is recompensed with much pleasure. The greater part of laborious employments confine man to his shop, or within his house; whilst he who devotes himself to agricultural pursuits always breathes a pure air, and enjoys continually the grand spectacle of nature. The azure sky is his canopy, and the earth, embroidered with flowers, his carpet. Far removed from the murky atmosphere of towns, a thousand beautiful objects present themselves to his view, and he need never want a pure spring of delight or real banquet of pleasure. Soon as the first rays of morning beam light on the earth, he rises with the lark, and hastes away to his fields, brushing, as he passes, the glistening dew-drops, and inhaling the fresh air, sweeter than the rose's perfume.

The joyful songs of the birds gladden the skies, and they express their loves in a thousand sportive sallies. Their sweet carols mark the pleasure they feel in the new day, and the full chorus swells with the praises of the God of nature, whose blessings they again receive in the returning influence of the sun, in their food, and in the sweet attractions of love and gayety. And surely, no heart can remain unmoved amid this scene of joy and festivity; nor can the mind contemplate a more august spectacle than the perfection of God in the grandeur of his designs and the beauty of his works.

What contributes to render agriculture and gardening more particularly pleasing is the constant variety and succession of objects always presented to us, which relieve the wearisomeness of continued uniformity and undeviating sameness. We continually observe a vast variety of plants, fruits, herbs, and trees grow up under our auspices, and assuming every diversity of appearance. Nature leads her followers through a thousand flowery paths, ever diversified by new changes and fresh delight. One while we see plants just peeping above the ground, at another those which have arisen and are fully developed, and others which are in full bloom. Whichever way we direct our views, we see new beauties. The heavens above and the earth beneath contain exhaustless treasures and boundless delights.

Let those who are from necessity confined within the walls of cities sometimes emerge from their smoky atmosphere and respire a purer air in the country, where their hearts may be rejoiced with a pure and innocent pleasure, and their souls rise up to heaven in aspirations of praise and gratitude to the Author of every blessing. — *Selected.*

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE.

The time has gone by, when Agricultural Science was a subject of derision or neglect by practical farmers. Every one must rejoice to see the rapid advance which it is making in the United States. Its greatest triumphs have been hitherto in the old world, and especially in England, where it has made a garden spot of the whole island, and enabled a mere speck on the surface of the waters to support an immense population. But even in our own country it has achieved its victories, for our farmers are every day paying more attention to the principles on which it devolves, and applying them with great success in their cultivation of the soil. This is particularly observable in some of the worn-out lands of our own state, which have been made to renew their youth, and though at one time as poor as Job in his lowest estate, yet it may now be said of them, as it was of the afflicted patriarch, that their "latter end is better than their beginning." We have the authority of one of the wisest practical farmers of the state for the opinion, that Virginia, by the advantages afforded by practical agricultural science and the enlightened and persevering employment of them, is destined not only to repair her waste places, but make them equal in fertility and beauty to the virgin regions of the Western States. — *Rich. (Va.) Repub.*

RAINY DAYS.

How much time is thrown away by some farmers when the weather will not permit them to work out doors! And how well this time might be improved! There are many days and hours of wet weather in a year, in which it is impossible to do any work on the farm; and when these are lost, as they are to many farmers of my acquaintance, they amount to a considerable sum. "Time is money," as my grandfather used to say; and further, "Take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves."

Now, if this is good advice in money matters, it will surely apply to economy in time, to those hours and half days when the rain drives us under cover.

Well, how are these hours to be best improved? I will tell you, my brother farmers. Get yourselves a set of carpenter's tools, and make a work-bench; and if you can plane a board and drive a nail, you will find enough to occupy all your spare time.

The tools will cost but five or six dollars — such as are most necessary; and then you will be able to keep your out-buildings, fences, and many of your farming implements in good repair. If your barn or stable doors break down, mend it immediately the first rainy day. If a board is loose, put a nail in it or replace it. If you want any plain, useful kitchen furniture, such as pine tables, benches, &c., take those occasions. But it is unnecessary to multiply the things that might be made or repaired in such times. Every farmer that looks around him (if he is not in the habit of so doing) will find the wood work on his place lamentably out of repair.

Besides, every farmer should accustom himself to the use of tools. When he wants a small job done, it wastes as much time often as it is worth, to go several miles after a carpenter. I know some farmers who have not a hatchet, drawing-knife, auger, plane, or work-bench about their place. The consequence is, their jobs and repairs generally go undone, and they have nothing to do half their time in rainy weather. Is this economy? Yet such men will carry their grain five miles farther to a market where they can get two cents more on a bushel. — *Genesee Farmer.*

TO DRY A COW OF HER MILK.

Circumstances render it necessary to stop the lactescent action in cows; and when this occurs, all that is absolutely required is to make a liquor by pouring into a fresh rennet bag two quarts of pure well, spring, or rain water; reduce the quantity of the liquid, by boiling briskly, to about one quart, and strain it. Then let it cool to a lukewarm temperature, and give it as a drink to the cow. In forty-eight hours she will be dry. For some days, her food should be dry and unsucculent, no water being allowed. — *Selected.*

AMERICAN BUTTER.

Considerable shipments of butter, mostly of inferior quality, have been made this season from this port, and also from New York, to England. In referring to a public sale of some of this butter, the London Commercial Journal of March 27th says: —

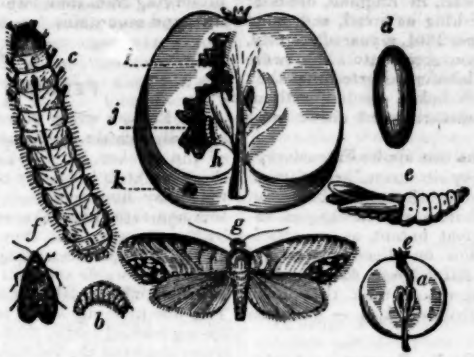
"At a public sale of American butter at Liverpool, it fetched for best sorts, [one hundred and twelve pounds,] eighty-four shillings; seconds, seventy-two to seventy-four shillings, duty paid; while inferior only sold at forty-three shillings to forty-four shillings in bond, of which the parcel chiefly consisted. The quantity arrived at the London market shows the same results, the principal part being sold for grease purposes. The American makers of butter are very far behind the Irish, English, or Dutch: from the first operation to the last, all seems to be done without system or care; the same materials would, if managed by experienced hands, fetch in this market twenty-five shillings or thirty shillings more money: there is no attention paid to the making, salting, putting, or packing.

Extract from a Letter.

"As it is probable that American butter and lard will in future seek a market in Great Britain for the surplus product, it may be well that the farmers and others should know that their interest will be to take more care in making these articles. Nothing can be superior to the rich flavor of the Ohio and other western butter, fed on prairie and other rich soils in the autumn, but even a moderately short voyage, or the approach of spring, changes the character of it into a white and rancid grease; the evil seems to be, that the buttermilk is not worked out, neither is it properly salted. The best American butter, imported this year, has sold not higher than eighty-five shillings, while the best from the continent has fetched one hundred and ten to one hundred and fifteen shillings. The latter will keep for years." — *N. Y. Ship. and Com. List.*

HORSES.

Flies are a great trouble to horses at this season. They will eat all the skin off the inside of their ears, and then feed upon the flesh, producing a great deal of pain and uneasiness. This evil may be prevented by rubbing upon the inside of their ears a little grease or oil, which should be repeated occasionally. Every merciful man who has a horse, will be "merciful to his beast," and prevent this injury.



THE APPLE-WORM IN DIFFERENT STAGES.

a. The young larva or worm in a small apple.
b. The full-grown worm, usual size.
c. The same greatly magnified.
d. The cocoon.
e. The pupa or chrysalis state.
f. The perfect insect, usual size.
g. The same greatly magnified.
h i. The passage of the worm in the fruit
j. The larva or worm in the apple.
k. The place of egress.

The apple-worm, or codling-moth, (*corpocapsa pomonella*) is a foreign production, and has been introduced into this country doubtless in packages of fruit trees. It is very numerous on the seaboard, and it has become common in the interior of New England and the Middle States, and it will probably spread all over the country.

Dr. Harris, author of that invaluable work, The Insects of Massachusetts, describes the parent of the apple-worm as a beautiful moth; the head and thorax brown mingled with gray; the four wings look like watered silk; the hind wings and abdomen are light and yellowish-brown. Its wings expand three fourths of an inch. A distinguishing mark in this insect is a large, oval, brown spot, edged with copper color, on the hinder margin of each of the fore wings.

The body of the young insect is of a whitish color, its head black. As it grows older, its body becomes flesh-colored, its head brown.

In the latter part of June and in July, these moths fly about apple-trees in the evening, and lay their eggs in the eye of the apple, sometimes in summer pears, preferring early to late fruits; the eggs hatch in a few days, and the young worms burrow in the apple, making their way, gradually, to the core of the apple. In three or four weeks, it comes to its full size, having burrowed to the core, and through different parts of the apple.

The injury from the worm produces a premature ripening of the fruit, which falls, and the insect, in a few days, makes his escape at an opening that has been used for the ejection of its excrements. On leaving the apples, the worms crawl into the chinks in the bark of trees, or other sheltered places, which they hollow out with their teeth. Here each spins a cocoon, or silken case, as fine and white as tissue paper. Some of the worms change to chrysalids, and in a few days more turn to moths, come out, and lay their eggs for a second generation of worms in the fall.

The apple-worm is very destructive, generally; and in a year of scarcity, like the present, they injure nearly all the fruit.

As a remedy, let small animals run in the orchard and eat all the fruit as it falls; or pick up all fallen fruit, every day, and cook it for swine, or in some way destroy the worms contained in it. If old cloths be hung around the crotches of trees, the worms will take shelter therein, and may be destroyed. By carefully scraping off the loose bark of apple-trees in the spring, many chrysalids will be destroyed.

POTATO RUST.

The potato rust has made its appearance in this quarter to a small extent. But from present appearances, it is thought it will not injure the crop materially; but it is hardly time to know how injurious it may prove. If the potato crop should be cut off this year, the hay crop being already reduced one half by the drought, there will be more suffering from destitution in this county, and in the Province of New Brunswick, than has been experienced for forty years past. — *Calais Advertiser.*

APPLES AS AN ARTICLE OF HUMAN FOOD.

The importance of apples, as food, has not hitherto been sufficiently estimated in this country, nor understood. Besides contributing a large portion of sugar, mucilage, and other nutritive matter, in the form of food, they contain such a fine combination of vegetable acids, abstractive substances, and aromatic principles, with the nutritive matter, as to act powerfully in the capacity of refrigerants, tonics, and antiseptics; and when freely used at the season of ripeness, by rural laborers and others, they prevent debility, strengthen digestion, correct the putrefactive tendencies of nitrogenous food, avert scurvy,

and probably maintain and strengthen the powers of productive labor."

The operators of Cornwall, in England, consider ripe apples nearly as nourishing as bread, and more so than potatoes. In the year 1801, a year of scarcity, apples, instead of being converted into cider, were sold to the poor; and the laborers asserted that they could stand their work on baked apples, without meat; whereas, a potato diet required either meat or fish.

The French and Germans use apples extensively; indeed, it is rare that they sit down, in the rural districts, without them in some shape or other, even at the best tables. The laborers and mechanics depend on them, to a very great extent, as an article of food, and frequently dine on sliced apples and bread. Stewed with rice, red cabbage, carrots, or by themselves, with a little sugar and milk, they make both a pleasant and nutritious dish. — *American Agriculturist.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — Apples are not only a valuable article as nutritious food, but in various preparations they are a luxury, rendering many dishes far more palatable, and if they sharpen the appetite, and induce the thoughtless to indulge rather freely in luxuries, they are not liable to injure the system like dishes of rich or concentrated food. They are not only harmless alone, and when compounded with other materials for food, but they are in almost all preparations highly conducive to health.

FRUIT TREES BY THE ROADSIDE.

The practice of setting out fruit trees by the roadside cannot be too highly recommended. In many parts of Europe this practice is general, and the fatigued traveller acknowledges the well-timed hospitality thus afforded him. The excuse is often made that the fruit will be stolen; but if the practice were general, the amount of fruit taken by wayfarers would only be what common hospitality would freely grant; and in Germany every third tree, by custom, may be *tabooed*, (the owner of the adjoining farm ties a piece of rag to one of the lower limbs of the tree,) and no traveller will touch it. Travellers inform us that no reward will tempt a German stage-driver to regale his passengers with fruit from a marked tree — two out of three thus being left for their use, if desired, renders the selected tree free from the chance of being used. The amount of fertilizing materials continually wasted upon roads would be rendered available by such a practice, and nothing but extreme selfishness will prevent the use of these materials for public benefit. Many of the larger sorts of fruit trees are highly ornamental and afford fine shade, while the use of fruit trees alone for shade, like the display of costly mansions, only excite the poor to envy, without adding materially to their comfort or health. — *Working Farmer.*

ADVANTAGES OF TREES.

Cattle thrive much better in fields even but moderately sheltered with trees than they do in an open exposed country. An Italian (Gautieri) has enumerated and illustrated the advantages in point of climate which tracts of country derive from woods and forests. "These," he says, "are arresting the progress of impetuous and dangerous winds; maintaining the temperature of the air; regulating the seasons; lessening intense cold; opposing the formation and increase of ice; moderating intense heats; producing abundance of water in the rivers; discharging the electricity of the atmosphere; opposing a barrier to washing away or undermining banks; preserving from inundations; preserving the soil on hills and mountains." — *Selected.*

FEEDING CATTLE.

An English writer observes that two great points in feeding cattle are regularity and a particular care of the weaker individuals. On this last account there ought to be plenty of trough or rack-room, that too many may not feed together; in which very common case the weaker are not only trampled down by the stronger, but they are worried and become cowed and spiritless; than which there cannot be a more unfavorable state for thrift; besides, these are ever compelled to shift with the worst of the fodder. This domineering spirit is so remarkably prevalent among horned cattle, that the writer has a hundred times observed the master-beasts running from crib to crib, and absolutely neglecting their own provender for the sake of driving the inferior from theirs. This is, much oftener than suspected, the chief reason of that difference in a lot of beasts, after a winter's keep. It is likewise, he says, a very common and very shameful sight, in a dairy of cows, to see several of them gored and wounded in a dozen places, merely from the inattention of the owner, and the neglect of clipping the horns of those that butt. The weaker animals should be kept apart; and in crib-feeding in the yard, it is a good method to tie up the master-beasts at their meals.

Dr. Deane says, "There should be more yards than one to a barn where divers sorts of cattle are kept. The sheep should have a yard by themselves at least; and the young stock another, that they may be wholly confined to such fodder as the farmer can afford them." — *Yankee Farmer.*

SOMETHING TO THINK OF.

At West Point, our government long ago established a military school. Young men are selected from different states every year, sent there, and educated at public expense. Every cadet that graduates there, costs the United States' government from four to five thousand dollars.

More than four millions of dollars have been bestowed by the United States upon that institution; and all for what?

Well, what then? Before Washington left the presidency, he earnestly recommended Congress to establish a Board of Agriculture, or to take some other measures to foster that peaceful but leading and important interest. They have been since repeatedly urged to lend the strong arm of government to the elevation and encouragement of that neglected calling. What have they done? Nothing. Millions and millions have been expended to learn young men how to fight; not the "*first red cent*" to teach them the noble, bread-giving, world-sustaining service and art of agriculture! — *Maine Farmer.*

SAGACITY OF A GREYHOUND AND POINTER.

A gentleman in the county of Sterling kept a greyhound and a pointer, and being fond of coursing, the pointer was accustomed to find the hares, and the greyhound to catch them. When the season was over, it was found that the dogs were in the habit of going out by themselves, and killing the hares for their own amusement. To prevent this, a large iron ring was fastened to the pointer's neck by a leather collar, and hung down, so as to prevent the dog from

running or jumping over dikes, &c. The animals however continued to stroll out to the fields together; and one day the gentleman, suspecting all was not right, resolved to watch them, and, to his surprise, found that the moment they were unobserved, the greyhound took up the iron ring in his mouth, and carrying it, they set off to the hills, and began to search for hares as usual. They were followed, and it was observed, that, whenever the pointer scented the hare the ring was dropped, and the greyhound stood ready to pounce upon poor puss the moment the other drove her from her form, but that he uniformly returned to assist his companion when he had accomplished his object. — *Yankee Farmer.*

REMEDY FOR LICE ON ANIMALS.

Farmers often incur serious losses among domestic animals, (especially the younger portion,) through the fatal instrumentality of *lice* — as they are called in common parlance. From some cause or other, they suddenly appear in countless numbers upon some favorite calf or calves, or colt or colts, and, despite of washings and rubbings and sundry other means resorted to, the afflicted animal generally sinks under an affliction, insignificant in detail, but powerful in the aggregate. Many are of the opinion that there has no harmless, yet efficient remedy, as yet been discovered. Tobacco juice, it is known, will kill vermin; but it will also almost as surely kill the subject, by having its baneful properties absorbed into the system. I am happy to inform your readers that a remedy possessing every requisite property has recently come to my knowledge, which I herewith communicate. It may not be new to all, but of one thing I am certain, I knew nothing of it till made acquainted in the following manner: —

Last spring I purchased a beautiful water-spaniel puppy, and took him home to raise. He had not been in my possession long when I noticed he kept up an almost incessant scratching, which I attributed to fleas. A neighbor of mine, however, being present one day, hinted that my dog was probably more or less affected with lice. I examined, and, to my utter astonishment, I found him literally covered with them. My friend told me what to do to rid him of them, that he had tried it, and knew it to be harmless, yet effectual. It was simply to rub him well, two or three times every three or four days, with melted hog's lard. I did so, and in two weeks' time there was not one of that vast army of vermin left to tell the tale; and what is more, it had no bad effect upon my dog.

The philosophy of it, I believe to be something like this: Naturalists assert that some animals inhale air, not by means of lungs, but through the pores of the skin, and that the louse belongs to this species. Assuming this to be true, I suppose that the remedy used was absorbed into, and completely filled up, the lungs or respiratory apparatus of the vermin, and effectually closed up the avenues of life, and thus produced devastation and death to countless thousands. M. H. A.

Pittsfield, Ill., 1849.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

MICROSCOPE DISCOVERIES.

Dr. Carpenter noticed particularly the formation of the great beds of chalk, several hundred feet thick, which substance is composed entirely of minute shells that are invisible to the naked eye. The different cellular structure of shells, and the peculiar organization of the teeth of animals, Dr. Carpenter could trace, even the invisible fragment of a shell or of a tooth, the class, and sometimes even the species, to which the fragments belonged. Referring to the general cellular structure of all organizations, he says that this structure could be seen alike in the leaf, in the bones, in the muscles, and in the blood; That all life seemed to originate in single cellular developments, but notwithstanding this apparent similarity in the original cells, there is an inherent, though as yet undistinguishable difference, which determines the structure of the plant and of the animal. The bodies of the animalcules which inhabited the shells composing the chalk are still enclosed within them, being the mummies of a former world. — *Scientific American.*

TO CURE SWELLING OF THE THROAT IN HOGS.

In order to contribute to the usefulness of your valuable periodical, and to inform the public of what I find from experience to be an infallible cure for a certain disease with hogs, viz.: the swelling of the throat, I herewith send you a recipe for the disease, with a desire that you publish the same in your work if you deem it of any import, and the same meets your approbation.

Take of molasses one half a pint, and a table spoonful of hog's lard; to this add of brimstone a piece an inch in length. Melt it over the fire, and when cold or in a liquid state, drench the hog with it; and nine times out of ten it will be found to have the desired effect. My hogs were affected with this disease during the past year, and I found the above to be effective when all things else failed. — *Farmer's Register.*

SEPTEMBER.

Be most exceedingly careful to gather all the apples, pears, cherries, &c., which fall prematurely from your trees, and are technically called windfalls, and boil them for your swine: bury them a little this side of the centre of gravity, or so dispose of them as to destroy the worms they contain; otherwise the plague of wormy fruit will, for aught that I know to the contrary, be entailed on you and your heirs for aye. Your hogs will fatten the faster if you give them every day or two a little charcoal. They will take *quantum sufficit* of it as a medicine to neutralize the acid of their stomachs, and you have only to place it where they can get at it, and every hog will be his own doctor, and charge nothing for his fees. If you feed your hogs with old corn, you will soak, boil, or grind it, otherwise a part will not be digested. Their food will go the farther if permitted to ferment till it has a sweetish taste, but should be given to them before it becomes decidedly sour. You may as well have a hole in your pocket for your money to escape from, as a drain to lead away the wash of your barnyard. True, it may spread over your grass land, and do some good, but it will give a flood of manure to some parts; a scanty rill to other parts, and some will go to enrich the highway, &c. — *Selected.*

ALPINE PLANTS.

Alpine plants are not, as commonly supposed, of a hardy nature, but the reverse. On the Alpine mountains they are deeply buried in snow during the winter — covered, as it were, with a pile of warm blankets, and thus effectually secured from the frost; and when the summer arrives, which is both later and much more rapid in its advance than with us, they are suddenly exposed, not to a temperature such as that of our spring, but to heat equal to that of the hottest of our dog-days.

Domestic Department.

Female Tact. — "When a woman is possessed of a high degree of tact, she sees, as by a kind of second sight, when any little emergency is like to occur, or when, to use a more familiar expresison, things do not seem likely to go right. She is thus aware of any sudden turn in conversation, and prepared for what it may lead to; but above all, she can penetrate into the state of mind of those she is placed in contact with, so as to detect the gathering gloom upon another's brow, before the mental storm shall have reached any formidable height; to know when the tone of voice has altered; when any unwelcome thought shall have presented itself, and when the pulse of feeling is beating higher or lower, in consequence of some apparently trifling circumstance which has just transpired. In these, and innumerable instances of a similar nature, the woman of tact not only perceives the variations which are constantly taking place in the atmosphere of social life, but she adapts herself to them with a facility which the law of love enables her to carry out, so as to spare her friends the pain and annoyance which so frequently arise out of the mere mismanagement of familiar and apparently unimportant affairs. And how often do these seeming trifles — these accidental betrayals of what there would have been no duplicity in concealing — how often do these wound us more than direct unkindness!"

Boiling Potatoes. — The correspondent of the London Times says, "The following method of dressing potatoes will be found of great use at this season of the year, when skins are tough and potatoes are watery. Score the skin of the potato with a knife lengthways and across, quite around, and then boil the potato in plenty of water and salt, with the skin on. The skin readily cracks when it is scored, and lets out the moisture, which otherwise renders the potato soapy and wet. The improvement to bad potatoes by this method of boiling them is very great; and all who have tried it, find a great advantage in it, now that good potatoes are very difficult to be obtained."

Boys' Department.

Be kind to Animals. — There are few things more disgraceful in children, than to be cruel to those harmless creatures which are unable to defend themselves. If I see a child pull off the wings of an insect, or throw stones at a toad or frog, or take pains to set his foot upon a worm, I am sure there is something wrong about him, or that he has not been well instructed.

There was once a boy who loved to give pain to every thing that came in his way, over which he could get any power. He would take the eggs from the mourning robin, and torture the unfledged sparrow; cats and dogs, the peaceable cow, and the faithful horse, he delighted to worry and distress. I do not like to tell you of the many cruel things that he did. He was told that such deeds were wrong. An excellent lady, with whom he lived, used to warn and reprove him for his evil conduct. But he did not reform. When he grew up, he became a soldier. He was never sorry to see men wounded, and blood running upon the earth. He became so wicked as to lay a plan to betray his country, and to sell it into the hands of the enemy. This is to be a traitor. But he was discovered, and fled. He never dared to return to his native land, but lived despised, and died miserably in a foreign clime. Such was the end of the cruel boy, who loved to give pain to animals. His name was Benedict Arnold; he was born at Norwich, Ct., in America, and the beautiful city of his birth is ashamed of his memory. — [*London*] *S. S. Teacher's Offering.*

Health.

Dysentery. — This disease will generally yield to various astringent medicines, some of which are known to almost every family. But, occasionally, it prevails as an epidemic, and is very malignant, and sometimes fatal. In such cases, it bids defiance to all common medicines, and resort must be had to those of a more powerful nature.

For an obstinate case of the dysentery, we consider charcoal powder one of the safest and most efficacious remedies. Some years ago, a friend had a child that lingered long with an obstinate case of dysentery, until it became emaciated, and so debilitated that the attending physician concluded that any further medical aid was useless, as it was a hopeless case. Some person suggested to the desponding parent that charcoal would be a remedy, and it was administered, and the child unexpectedly recovered.

This and other similar cases, with the consideration of the peculiar properties of charcoal, as admirably adapted to this purpose, have induced us to use it, in our family, for dysentery and protracted cases of summer complaint in children, and we have always found it a sure remedy; but we would remark that we have not had to treat very severe cases; not having any of very violent attack, and by the use of this remedy, preventing any cases of long standing.

Having had no definite rules for preparing this medicine, nor prescriptions for a dose, we have followed our own judgment, as follows: Take some pieces of white pine, — which every one can obtain, as most boards are made of this timber, — perfectly pure, being free from knots or discoloration; burn them till they begin to fall to pieces, then quench them. Crumble this charcoal upon a plate, and mix with it just honey enough to make a paste, if the patient can take honey; if not, or if it is not convenient, use molasses or lard. When made into a paste, which prevents the charcoal flying away, rub it thoroughly on the plates with a case knife, until it is ground as fine as possible. Add some more honey or molasses, and give it alone, or in warm water, or herb tea. To nursing infants, give a teaspoonful for a dose; to adults, a tablespoonful. If it does not check the disease, repeat in light doses.

In very severe cases of dysentery, the inner coat of the bowels sloughs off, and the excoriated intestines bleed and are very tender. As the foul matter should be removed, it is not always advisable to stop the discharges immediately, by the most powerful astringents; therefore it is better to give a light dose of some gentle laxative with the charcoal. Honey,

molasses, and lard are all laxatives, and when the recent discharges have been very foul, it may be well to give very light doses of castor oil, with the charcoal. Give also a tea of raspberry leaves, for inflammation of the bowels, and light doses of hot drops, to relieve pain, which also checks the disease, and promotes a healthy action of the bowels.

We use white pine, and grind it fine, that there may be no grit to irritate the bowels. We use the charcoal immediately after being burned, or that which has been recently burned and kept corked tight in bottles; as freshly-burned charcoal is a powerful absorbent of gases, particularly of ammonia and foul odors, and if it becomes saturated, it will have less effect as a medicine.

Charcoal is a powerful antiseptic, and is excellent to prevent mortification, to which the intestines are tending, as they become putrescent, in long and severe cases of this disorder. Charcoal is one of the best purifiers in nature. Tainted meat is purified and made sweet by boiling it in a pot with some pieces of charcoal. Mortification has been cured by charcoal poultices. Charcoal dust is a powerful styptic, and is used with success in stopping blood. It also corrects acidity in the stomach. These are its chemical qualities, and it may have other valuable properties. Mechanically, charcoal dust is loosening, like sand, and is, therefore, less liable to produce too sudden a stoppage of the lax.

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Another Whitewash. — The editor of the Horticulturist, in answer to the queries of a correspondent, gives the following recipe for a whitewash. We have published a good many recipes for this purpose, but believe we have never published one exactly like this. He recommends it as most excellent, as a cheap and durable wash for wooden fences and buildings. He thinks that it owes its durability to the white vitriol which it contains.

Take a barrel and slake a bushel of freshly-burned lime in it, by covering the lime with boiling water. After it is slaked, add cold water enough to bring it to the consistency of good whitewash. Then dissolve in water, and add one pound of white vitriol (sulphate of zinc) and one quart of fine salt. To give this wash a cream color, add one half pound of yellow ochre, in powder. To give it a fawn color, add one fourth of a pound of Indian red. To make a handsome gray stone color, add one half pound of French blue, and one fourth pound of Indian red. A drab will be made by adding one half pound of burnt sienna, and one fourth pound of Venetian red.

For brick or stone, instead of one bushel of lime, use a half bushel of lime and half bushel of hydraulic cement.

These washes are very useful in preserving buildings, fences, &c., to which they are applied; and although it may be renewed much oftener than oil paints, they give a very neat appearance to farms, where they are applied to the buildings, gates, &c. As their cost is trifling, it is strange that they are not used more often than they are.

New Uses for Granite. — A Mr. McDonald, in Scotland, has discovered a method of calcining granite to a fine clay of extraordinary strength for pottery, especially for making water pipes, some of which are as large as eighteen inches bore. And a discovery has been made in Ireland, that the granite, on an extent of seventy miles, in Wexford, contains so large a proportion of potash that the alkali can be extracted by a chemical process, so as to become an article of commerce. It is estimated that there are two thousand tons of potash, the produce of America, consumed annually in England and Scotland, the present cost of which is forty pounds per ton; and that, by working the granite of Dalkey, which extends inland to Sandyford, the same quantity could be extracted by means of the capital of ten thousand pounds, and sold at twenty pounds per ton, yielding a revenue of forty thousand pounds to remunerate the capitalists and diffuse the blessings of employment among the people, and not only render it quite impossible for the Americans to compete with the Irish, but really push an Irish trade in potash into the American continent. — *Dublin Evening Post.*

CULTIVATION AND PRESERVATION OF "WOOD-LOTS."

Editors of the Cultivator: I can stand it no longer. The inconsiderate clearing of the woodlands of New England by our fathers, without regard to the selection of those lands suitable for arable and grazing purposes, finds an apology in the fact that forests, generally, were an encumbrance to them. The greater thoughtlessness and improvidence of their sons, however, in still persisting in the practice, while we have more lands already cleared than a proper and profitable husbandry is bestowed upon, is, to me, a painful and surprising matter. Besides being ruinous to the present owner, it is a perfect "devil take the hindmost" policy for the sons. Go where we will, we are compelled to look upon rough, inaccessible lands, and tops and acclivities of hills, which have been swept of their natural covering and fertility, and turned into pastures affording but scanty returns for the hard labor of the animals *attempting* a subsistence thereon, and still smaller returns to the proprietor. There is scarcely a farm in this section but has acres of this kind of land that would have been worth five times, yes, in many cases, ten times as much as they now are, had a second growth of wood been permitted to run up on them.

The operation of clearing and burning a large tract of hill-side woodland, has been going on within my observation for a few years past. It has been of the genuine, old-fashioned sort. A large piece is chopped over, each winter, and the wood and timber marketed. The next August, a heavy fire burns up the vegetable mould on or near the surface, and the ashes left, operating as a powerful and unnatural stimulus on so light a soil, only cause it to give up its organic matter, its fertility, the more speedily. Rye is sown, and yields so fine a crop that another of the same kind is put in the next fall, and possibly a light sprinkling of grass-seed with it. At the end of five years, the land is so far exhausted, that five acres will not keep an old sheep alive through the summer. Then, again, a valuable tillage-field, which has had the protection of this wood from bleak winds, is now exposed to every northern blast, which, in this climate, is a serious consideration. Had the inconsiderate owner just taken off his wood, and "therewith been content," leaving his hill-side to be covered with another growth of trees, he could have sold it to-day, if he wished, for twice what it will now bring.

Ten years ago, I cut the wood off a long stretch of side-hill, and, in my inexperience, burnt over a portion of it for pasturage. The remainder was left to grow up again to wood. Many of the young trees

are six to eight inches through; they are all very straight and thrifty, and I value one acre of this land more than five acres of that which is in pasture. I shall not again permanently clear up my steep hill-sides.

At the solicitation of a railroad friend, a short time since, I accompanied him into the country directly south of this, to examine and estimate the value of some "wood-lots." I was forcibly struck with the amount of rugged, barren land, inaccessible for agricultural purposes, which had been thrown into open country, even by the present owners. Had a second growth of wood been permitted to run up on the land, instead of subjecting it to the burning and cropping process, it would have been now worth far more to the owners; for a railroad is tapping that country, with its large and clamorous demands for wood and timber. Riding along with an old inhabitant of one of the towns visited, he pointed out a wood-lot which was cut over twenty years since, and suffered to grow up again to wood, contrary to the usual custom. It was sold at auction, a short time since, for thirty-four hundred dollars. It would not have brought over eight hundred dollars, had it been in pasture from the time it was cleared.

Warm hill-sides, having an eastern or southern slope, send up a second growth of wood with great rapidity. Although they may not eventually support so heavy a growth as strong, level land, they will yet produce all the wood they are capable of sustaining, much sooner. A friend directed my attention, the other day, to a tract of land, with an eastern slope, in a neighboring town, which was cleared of an original growth of wood, twenty-five years ago, and left to itself to produce another growth from the sprout. The land, with its present standing wood, was appraised a year or two since, at fifty dollars an acre. Ten dollars an acre is all that similar land, in pasture, in that vicinity, has ever been worth. By the application of a little arithmetic, then, we find that the increase of this second growth of wood has been equal to sixteen per cent. interest, per annum, on the worth of the land, without a dollar's expense for the cultivation, — that is, ten dollars, at sixteen per cent. simple interest, for twenty-five years, amounts to forty dollars; to which add the principal, the worth of the land, and we have fifty dollars, the appraised present value, per acre.

Take another view. The importance of a due proportion of wood in equalizing moisture, and preserving the constancy of our small springs and brooks, as well as restraining, in a great measure, the sudden rise and overflow of our rivers, is well known to observing men. Several fine springs and little brooks, which were familiar friends in boyhood, have either entirely disappeared, or are only seen for a season in the spring.

"In wet seasons, the decayed leaves and spongy soil of wood lands retain a large proportion of the falling rains, and give back the moisture, in time of drought, by evaporation, or through the medium of springs. They thus both check the sudden flow of water from the surface into the streams and low grounds, and prevent the droughts of summer from parching our pastures and drying up the rivulets which water them. On the other hand, where too large a proportion of the surface is bared of wood, the action of the summer sun and wind scorches the hills which are no longer shaded or sheltered by trees, the springs and rivulets that found their supply in the bibulous soil of the forest disappear, and the farmer is obliged to surrender his meadows to his cattle, which can no longer find food in his pastures, and sometimes even to drive them miles for water. Again, the vernal and autumnal rains, and the melting snows of winter, no longer intercepted and absorbed by the leaves or the open soil of the woods, but falling every where upon a comparatively hard and even surface, flow swiftly over the smooth ground, washing away the vegetable mould as they seek their natural outlet, fill every ravine with a torrent, and convert every river into an ocean." — Address of Hon. Geo. P. Marsh.

Several successful attempts have been made within my observation, in improving rugged and exhausted lands by planting them out to trees. Within sight, while writing, is a knoll that has been completely renovated by a plantation of the white locust. It was originally a coarse, worthless gravel, barren of herbage of any kind. I remember that the proprietor was laughed at by his neighbors for attempting to grow trees on his barren gravel. The locusts got root, however, and although their growth was slow and feeble, they gradually formed a soil by the annual shedding of their leaves; and as the soil became thus strengthened, their growth became more vigorous, new shoots sprang up in all directions from the roots; and after a while, clover and other grasses began to appear on the open ground. I have been curious to observe the gradual improvement of this land. Last summer, I noticed that the grass was very luxuriant, and would have yielded at the rate of a ton or more of hay to the acre, in the open spots. The locust wonderfully endows a poor soil with new energy and fertility. It seems to make its demands for nourishment more largely upon the atmosphere than any other tree, and gains foothold in soils absolutely barren of fertility. Then, again, its leaves are small, with very rough edges, lying perfectly still where they fall, while those of most other trees are blown about by the winds, collecting in hollows or in large heaps.

In my notice of Mr. Rice's farming, last year, I remarked that he ploughed up a large tract of unproductive hill-side, several years ago, and planted it with chestnuts, in rows four feet apart every way. The first sprouts coming up rather crooked and scrubby, he went over the field, and cut them down close to the ground, which caused new sprouts to shoot up straight and vigorous. The trees are very thrifty, completely shade the ground, and grow more and more rapidly as the soil becomes strengthened by the annual deposit of leaves. So well satisfied is he with the experiment, that he is now placing other worthless lands in a similar course of improvement.

The late Hon. John Lowell, the first and most zealous advocate for improvements of this kind in New England, planted three acres of waste land on his estate at Roxbury, Mass., to a variety of forest trees, — the whole value of the land not being ten dollars per annum.

In a communication upon the subject, he says, "The land was about half of it ploughed and kept open with potatoes for two years, and then abandoned to the course of nature. The pines were taken up out of the forest with great care, not more than five feet high. Wherever I had the cupidity or impatience to introduce a larger tree, I either lost it or it became sickly. In some places I planted acorns; and as to my hard wood forest-trees, transplanted from the woods, finding they looked feeble and sickly when they shot out, I instantly sawed them off at the ground or near it. This required some resolution, but I have been abundantly paid for it.

"The result of this experiment is this — that in a period of from thirteen to fifteen years, I have raised a young, beautiful, and thrifty plantation, comprising almost every variety of tree which we have in Massachusetts, which are now from twenty-five to thirty-five feet high, and some of which, the thriftiest white pines, actually measure from nine to twelve inches in diameter. The loppings and thinning out of these trees, now furnish abundance of light fuel for summer use; and upon as accurate a calculation as I am able to make, I am convinced that the present growth, cut down at the expiration of fourteen

years from the time of planting, would amply pay for the land at the price it would have brought."

Mr. S. Brown, in a communication to the Boston Cultivator, says, "I have one acre of land which, thirty years ago, was not worth more than ten dollars; I have no recollection of there being a tree upon it, with the exception of one apple-tree, and some scattering bushes; the appearance of the soil was such as to forbid any attempt at cultivation, and my cattle have rambled over it from that day to this; in the mean time, the young pines voluntary sprung up, and became a forest; and now, I would not thank any man to pay me sixty dollars for the standing wood on that acre. Now, if any man can tell me how to improve such land to better advantage, I would thank him for the information."

Mr. Webster has a great variety of thrifty, promising young forest-trees on his estate at Marshfield, which he has raised by planting the seeds. There are several reasons for preferring this mode of cultivation to that of transplanting. The expense of planting seed is less than that of transplanting trees; the trees will be straighter and more vigorous; they neither require staking nor watering; and at the end of eight or ten years they will ordinarily have acquired a much larger growth than trees transplanted at the same time.

The success in attempting improvements by planting waste or exhausted lands to wood and timber, will very much depend upon choosing those kinds of trees that are most naturally adapted to the soil. Professor Johnston has some very interesting remarks upon this point, a part of which I will venture to quote. Speaking of the improvements going on in Europe, in renovating exhausted lands by planting trees, he says, —

"The most precise observations on the subject with which I am acquainted, are those which have been made in the extensive plantations of the late duke of Athol. These plantations consist chiefly of white larch, and grow upon a poor, hilly soil, resting on gneiss, mica-slate and clay-slate. In six or seven years, the lower branches spread out, become interlaced, and completely overshadow the ground. Nothing, therefore, grows upon it till the trees are twenty-four years old, when the spines of the lower branches, beginning to fall, the first considerable thinning takes place. Air and light being thus readmitted, grasses spring up, and a fine sward is gradually produced. The ground, which previously was worth only nine pence or one shilling [rent?] per acre as a sheep pasture, at the end of thirty years becomes worth from seven shillings to ten shillings per acre.

"On the soil planted by the duke of Athol, the larch shot up luxuriantly, while the Scotch fir lingered and languished in its growth. Thus the quantity of leaves produced and annually shed by the former was vastly greater than by the latter tree. Had the Scotch fir thriven better than the larch, the reverse might have been the case, and the value of the soil might have been increased in a greater proportion by plantations of the former tree.

"In regard to the relative improving power of the several species of trees, the most rational, natural rule, by which our practice should be guided, seems to be contained in these three propositions: —

1. That the soil will be most improved by those trees which thrive best upon it;

2. Among those which thrive equally, by such as yield the largest produce of leaves; and,

3. Among such as yield an equal weight of leaves, by those whose leaves contain the largest proportion of inorganic matter — which bring up from beneath, that is, and spread over the surface in largest quantity, the materials of a fertile soil.

"The mode in which the lower branches of the larch spread out and overshadow the surface is not without its influence upon the ultimate improvement which the soil exhibits. All vegetation being prevented, the land, besides receiving a yearly manure of vegetable mould, is made to lie for upwards of twenty years in uninterrupted naked fallow. It is sheltered also from the beating of the rain-drops, which descend slowly and gently upon it, bearing principles of fertility, instead of washing out the valuable saline substances it may contain. Beneath the overshadowing branches of a forest, the soil is also protected from the wind; and to this protection Sprengel attributes much of that rapid improvement so generally experienced where lands are covered with wood. The winds bear along particles of earthy matter, which they deposit again in the still forests; and thus gradually form a soil even on the most naked places."

Thousands of acres of waste lands in New England, entirely unprofitable to the owners and to community, might, by judicious planting with trees, be redeemed from their sterility, — thus adding, in effect, to the territorial extent as well as wealth of the country; besides in many cases fivefolding the value of individual estates thus planted. Numerous instances might be given in proof of this statement.

It is worthy of separate and particular consideration that our country is fast becoming penetrated in every direction by railroads, whose consumption of wood is so enormous that we must look well to our forests, or they will vanish. The facilities of transportation which they afford will induce a greater demand for lumber and stuff for turning purposes, for the manufactories near the sea-board. Thus new and greater inducements for the cultivatiom and preservation of woodlands are yearly becoming developed, urging our farmers to awake to the importance of this subject.

In treating this topic at this time, I have chosen to give a somewhat desultory statement and citation of facts and principles which are so palpable as to come within the observation of every one, rather than a methodical and formal essay; hoping by this means the more surely to attract the attention of the practical farmer.

F. HOLBROOK.

Brattleboro', Vt., *Feb.* 1849.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Of all modern sciences, the science of the globe has made the most rapid, the most remarkable, and the most important progress. Bacon makes the fine remark, that while the works of man advance by successive additions, the works of nature all go on at once; thus the machinist adds wheel to wheel, and spring to spring, but the earth produces the tree, branch and bark, trunk and leaf, together. There is something analogous to this combined operation in physical geography: a whole crowd of remarkable discoveries seem to have burst on us at once, expressly designed to invigorate and impel our progress in geographical science. Thus our century has witnessed new phenomena of magnetism, new laws of heat and refrigeration, new laws even of the tempest, new rules of the tides, new expedients for the preservation of health at sea, new arrangements for the supply of fresh food, and even for the supply of fresh water by distillation, and all tending to the same object — the knowledge of the globe.

The use of steam, to which modern mechanism has given almost a new existence, and certainly a new power — the conquest of wind and wave by the steam ship, and the almost miraculous saving of time and space by the steam carriage; the new necessity of remote enterprise, originating in the urgency of commercial and manufacturing difficulties; the opening of the thousand islands of the Indian Archipelago, till now known to us as scarcely more than the seat of savage life, or the scene of Oriental fable;

the breaking down of that old and colossal barrier of restrictions and prejudices, which, more than the wall of China, excluded England from intercourse with a population amounting to a third of mankind; and most of all, those vast visitations of apparent evil, which the great Disposer of things is evidently transmuting, year by year, into real good, by propelling the impoverished multitudes of Europe into the wildernesses of the world — all exhibiting a stupendous combination of simple means, and not a less astonishing convergency to the one high purpose, the mastery of the globe — place physical geography at the head of the sciences essential to the happiness and power of human kind.

SETTING FENCE POSTS.

I would say to those of my farming friends who have fence posts of oak, cedar, or other wood to set, that they should be thoroughly seasoned, and the lower parts, intended to be inserted in the soil, well charred. A fire of shavings may be kindled, and the ends of the posts, placed so as to be carbonized by its action, are easily prepared at the rate of twenty or more at a time. Charred posts last for a much greater length of time, in the same soil, than those which are not charred. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

From Mr. A. Lackey, Jr., Marblehead, Eng., Wheat plums, which are of a good size, handsome, and of a fine quality. As it is a good bearer, it is excellent for the market or private garden. Also Large Black Imperial plum; very large and showy, the quality middling. Mr. L. has paid great attention to collecting, experimenting on, and comparing a great variety of plums, and is thus rendering essential service to the community.

Of Mr. Henry Vandyne, Cambridgeport, specimens of Prince's Yellow Gage plum. This is a sweet, luscious plum, and among the best of its season. Mr. V. has a fine collection of plums, and he furnishes, at our horticultural shows, specimens that do him much credit as a cultivator.

From Mr. Charles H. Pendleton, Pendleton Hill, Ct., a specimen of Pendleton's Early York pear. We find this in appearance, texture, and quality, precisely like the Dorr pear, described in the American Fruit Book; but the size is smaller. The Dorr pear, which we received from Colonel Chase, Cornish, N. H., is probably the same as the Early Sweet, cultivated by Mr. Pinneo, of Hanover, N. H. It is said to be a seedling from pears brought from Connecticut. It is doubtless the same variety as Pendleton's Early York, or a seedling from it, of the same, or nearly the same characteristics. The Dorr pear is a great grower, and very productive, very hardy, and adapted to northern culture. The fruit is large, fair, handsome, and of middling quality, being sweet and rather dry. Ripens from the first to the last of August. As this variety is productive and pleasant, and comes in early, when there is but little good fruit, and the tree has valuable properties, we think that it would be profitable for the market.

From Mr. Wm. O. Noyes, Greenland, N. H., pears for a name. We think it is a native, not generally known. It is sweet and very pleasant.

FARMER'S HYMN.

God of the hills and verdant plains,
I bless thy ruling hand;
For drifting snows and gentle rains
Are sent by thy command.

The opening spring is decked by thee
With each delightful flower,
And every leaf and bud I see
Bear impress of thy power.

The ripening summer's burning sun,
The winter's piercing cold,
The changing seasons, as they run,
Thy wisdom, Lord, unfold.

The joy that centres in my cot,
No less thy wisdom owns; —
With rural happiness my lot,
I cannot envy thrones.

Love dwells within my peaceful breast
At every morning's dawn;
And when the sun sinks in the west,
My cares are all withdrawn.

Although secluded from the mart
Where crowd the thoughtless gay —
Where, in the scenes that vex the heart,
Men waste their lives away —

Beside the hill, the purling brook,
Glad nature's fond retreat,
With gratitude to thee I look,
And songs of joy repeat.

For lot so blest, my voice I raise,
Almighty God, to thee; —
Thou needest not an angel's praise,
Much less such praise from me.

But I will bless thy bounteous hand
For all thy gifts bestowed; —
Before my heart could understand,
Ten thousand thanks I owed.

THE OLIO.

Home. — The object of all ambition should be, to be happy at home. If we are not happy there, we cannot be happy elsewhere. It is the best proof of the virtues of a family circle, to see a happy fireside.

Horne Tooke, being asked by George III. whether he played cards, replied, "I cannot, your majesty, tell a *king* from a *knave*."

Every-day Absurdities. — To attempt to borrow money on the plea of extreme poverty. — To believe that your own relatives are the best friends you will ever meet with.

He who knows himself best esteems himself least.

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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